

recrystallized melt phase joining areas of adjacent fibers to form a network or continuous three dimensional matrix [while retaining fibrous structure in the composite] which binds the fibers and filler together.

2. (Amended) A composite material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the [fused fibres are in chopped form] the fiber is cut to a maximum length of 0.5 mm.

4. (Twice Amended) A composite material as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler is [a particulate filler] up to 60% volume of the material.

Claim 5, line 2, insert --the group consisting of-- after "from".

Please cancel Claims 9 and 10 without prejudice.

25. (Twice Amended) A composite material as claimed in Claim 1 [characterized in that it includes a] wherein the recrystallized melt phase of the polymeric material [which has a melting point less than that of the oriented fiber and which binds the fiber material together] is derived from the polymer in a precursor mixture of molecularly oriented polymer fiber and inorganic filler by partial melting thereof to leave molecularly oriented fiber and particulate filler bound together by said melt phase.

Please add the following new claims:

--62. A composite as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polymeric material is a homo- or co-polymer of a polyolefin.

63. A composite as claimed in claim 62, wherein the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 50,000 to 3,000,000.

64. A composite as claimed in claim 63, wherein the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 100,000 to 3,000,000.

65. A composite as claimed in claim 64, wherein the polymer has a weight average molecular weight of 500,000 to 3,000,000.

66. A composite as claimed in claim 62, wherein the fiber is gel or melt spun fiber.--